for safe havens, sanctuary and training purposes. The matter has been taken up with Government of Bhutan. The King of Bhutan has assured that Bhutan will not allow negative elements to use their territory for activities prejudicial to the interests of India.

Delay in investigation by Liberhan Commission

1948. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an inordinate delay in completing the investigation by the Librehan Commission instituted to delve into the causes that led to the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya in December 1992; and

(b) it so, the present stage of the investigation and by when it is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The proceedings of the Commission are in progress and the examination/cross examination of witnesses is still continuing. As per the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs Gazette Notification No. SO-608(E) dated 29th June, 2000, the Librehan Ayodhya Commission of Inquiry is required to submit its report on or before the 31th December, 2000.

Protection of innocent people visiting religious places

1949. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide adequate security of police personnel at all places of worship in view of a series of bomb blasts at various religious places in the country;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, how the lives of innocent people visiting religious places would be protected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per Schedule VII, List II of the Constitution of India. However, in a conference of Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police addressed by the Home Minister and in a high level official level meeting held recently, the States were urged to provide security to the minorities including Christians and their institution where considered necessary and to deal firmly with the perpetrators of violence to whichever groups they may belong.

Route for visiting Kaillash-Mansarovar

† l950. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had held any talk with China to arrive at a consensus on the issue of opening of an alternative route for visting Kailash-Mansarovar;

(b) if so, when and at what level this talk was held;

(c) whether any consensus could be arrived at during the above talk; and

(d) if not, what was the viewpoint of China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra was reopened for Indian pilgrims, via the traditional route across Lipulekh pass in Pithoragarh District of UP, in 1981, following a bilateral agreement between India and China. The Government of India have proposed to the Chinese Government an alternative route through Demchok in Ladakh

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.